



Educator's
Resource Guide

Thank you for your interest in bringing your group to the Ocean City Historical Museum! If you are a classroom teacher, youth group facilitator, camp counselor, scout leader or work with youth in another capacity, we are certain that you will find something at the Ocean City Historical Museum that fits your needs. Whether we are assisting your classroom lessons and helping you meet New Jersey state standards or working with you to complete a scout badge, we look forward to creating important community partnerships.

Throughout this packet, you will find basic information about how we can be of service to you. Please feel free to contact the museum at 609-399-1801, info@ocnjmuseum.org or visit us on the web at www.ocnjmuseum.org.

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About the Museum

The Mission of the Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc. is to maintain and operate a quality Historical Museum in Ocean City, New Jersey, with the cooperation and assistance of the City of Ocean City. The specific goals of the Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc. are to collect, preserve, and display objects that are of historical worth and interest to Ocean City and surrounding areas; and to provide educational and cultural programs pertaining to Ocean City, New Jersey, and surrounding areas.

The Ocean City Historical Museum is located at 1735 Simpson Avenue inside the Ocean City Cultural Community Center. Hours are Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The museum is run entirely on donations and visits are free of charge.

About the Exhibit

Since its founding in 1964, The Ocean City Historical Museum has preserved the city's heritage for future study. The museum's many artifacts and photographs reveal distinct stages of Ocean City History. A main feature of the museum is a timeline of Ocean City, starting with the Lenni Lenape Native Americans in the 1600s to the present day. As a result, many themes of United States and New Jersey History are present within the museum.

Themes:

- Native American History
- Founding of Ocean City
- Religion's Role in Ocean City
- Victorian Life, Principles and Values
- Relationship of Humans and Nature/Environment and Resources
- Transportation History
- Leisure, Entertainment and Commerce History
- Shipwrecks- specifically *The Sindia*

Artifacts Include (but not limited to):

- Arrowheads from the Lenni Lenape
- Victorian Furniture, Art, Clothing
- Victorian's Children's Toys
- Transportation Models
- Objects from Ocean City schools
- Antique Maps and Documents
- China and other objects from *The Sindia* shipwreck
- Sailor's Valentines and Scrimshaws
- Historic Photographs

About the Tour

The tour at the Ocean City Historical Museum lasts approximately one hour focuses on the timeline of Ocean City history. However, it is easily customized to fit your specific group needs. For example, it can focus on *The Sindia* shipwreck or the founding of the city. All the museum asks is that you give us enough time to accommodate your preferences. Additionally, the group will be split, so they can take turns viewing the exhibits. The tour is free of charge, although donations are appreciated.

For an additional fee, a number of hands-on activities may be available which result in a take away product for your group members. Examples are creating mock scrimshaws, designing retro travel stickers and making sailor's valentines. If interested in these activities, please work with the museum staff ahead of time.

We ask that you give at least 2 weeks notice of your desired tour topics so that we can coordinate appropriately.

Setting up the Visit

We ask that you contact us no later than 2 weeks prior to a visit.

Please fill out the following form and return to:

Ocean City Historical Museum

1735 Simpson Avenue

Ocean City, NJ 08226

or email to:

info@ocnjmuseum.org

Group name:

Group type (school, youth group, troop):

Grade/Age level:

Teacher/leader:

Date of tour:

Arrival time:

Departure time:

Specific interest or themes:

Interest in visiting gift shop:

**Interest in additional crafts activities:
(craft activities are an additional fee)**

Total attendance:

Total adults:

Total children:

Special needs in group (explain):

Contact Person:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

Rules and Guidelines for Group Visits

- No touching of museum exhibits, unless directed to do so.
- No eating, drinking or smoking permitted.
- Divide into groups of 10-15 before you arrive. Assign two chaperones for each group.
- Groups must remain together at all times.
- Please turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices.
- Photography is permitted, but please refrain from using flash.
- Every group will be allowed 10 minutes in the gift shop (if desired).

New Jersey State Standards Grade 2

Below are some state standards that we can help you meet. These are simply suggestions and we would be happy to help on other standards if we are able.

Social Studies Skills

- 6.1.2. A 4. Retell events or stories with accuracy and appropriate sequencing
- 6.1.2. A 5. Develop simple timelines
-

United States and New Jersey History

Family and Community Life

- 6.4.2. A 2. Describe their family history through two generations
- 6.4.2. A 3. Compare family life today with long ago

State and Nation

- 6.4.2. B 2. Discuss the contributions of important women, African Americans and Native Americans in United States and New Jersey History

Geography

The World in Spatial Terms

- 6.6.2. A 1. Explain the spatial concepts of location, distance and direction

Environment and Society

- 6.6.2. E 1. Describe the role of resources such as air, land, water and plants in everyday life
- 6.6.2. E 3. Act on small scale, personalized environmental issues such as littering and recycling and explain why such actions are important

New Jersey State Standards Grade 4

Below are some state standards that we can help you meet. These are simply suggestions and we would be happy to help on other standards if we are able.

Social Studies

- 6.1.4. A 4. Organize events in a timeline
- 6.1.4. A 6. Distinguish fact from fiction

Unites States and New Jersey History

Family and Community Life

- 6.4.4. A 3. Discuss the reasons why various groups voluntarily and involuntarily immigrated to American and New Jersey and describe the problems they encountered
- 6.4.4. A 4. Discuss the history of their community, including origins of its name, groups and individuals who lived their and access to important places and buildings in the community

State and Nation

- 6.4.4. B 1. Compare the major early culture of the Lenape that existed in the region that became New Jersey prior to contact with Europeans
- 6.4.4. B 4. Indentify major documents and symbols in New Jersey and American History (The New Jersey State Seal)
- 6.4.4. B 7. Describe the population shift from the farm to the city in New Jersey.

Economics

Economics and Society

- 6.5.4. B 2. Describe products and services that are developed, manufactured or grown in New Jersey

Geography

Places and Regions

- 6.6.4. B 1. Identify the physical and human characteristics of places and regions in New Jersey and the United States (landscapes, climate, housing, etc.)
- 6.6.4. B 2. Explain changes in places and regions over time and the consequences of those changes
- 6.6.4. B 3. Describe the geography of New Jersey

New Jersey State Standards Grade 8

Below are some state standards that we can help you meet. These are simply suggestions and we would be happy to help on other standards if we are able.

Social Studies Skills

- 6.1.8. A 5. Examine current issues, events or themes and relate them to past events
- 6.1.8. A 11. Summarize information in written, graphic and text formats

United States and New Jersey History

State and Nation

- Reinforce indicators from previous grade levels

Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

- 6.4.8. F 2. Discuss American cultural, religious and social reform movements in the antebellum period (abolitionists, Second Great Awakening)
- 6.4.8. F 6. Discuss the economic history of New Jersey including growth of major industries and businesses, the lives of factory workers and occupations of working people

Economics

Economics and Society

- 6.5.8. B 4. Describe how inventions and innovations have improved standards of living over the course of history

Geography

Places and Regions

- 6.6.8. B 4. Explain how regional systems are interconnected (transportation systems)
- 6.6.8. B 5. Discuss how the geography of New Jersey impacts transportation, industry and community development

New Jersey State Standards Grade 12

Below are some state standards that we can help you meet. These are simply suggestions and we would be happy to help on other standards if we are able.

Social Studies Skills

- 6.1.12. A 3. Gather, analyze and reconcile information from primary and secondary sources to support or reject hypotheses
- 6.1.12. A 6. Apply problem solving skills to national, state or local issues and reasoned solutions

United States and New Jersey History

Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

- 6.4.12. F 3. Analyze the political, economic and social changes in New Jersey prior to the Civil War, including the growth of New Jersey's cities, New Jersey's 1844 Constitution, the early stages of industrialization and the political and economic implications of the transportation monopolies
- 6.4.12. F 4. Compare and contrast the characteristics of cultural, religious and social reform movements in the antebellum period, including the abolition movement, the public school movement, the temperance movement and the women's rights movement

The Industrial Revolution (1870-1900)

- 6.4.12. H 2. Analyze the development of industrialization in America and New Jersey during this period and the resulting transformation of the country
- 6.4.12. H 3. Analyze social and political trends in post Reconstruction America, including immigration restrictions, Jim Crow Laws and racial segregation, the rise of extra legal organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan

Postwar Years (1945-1970s)

- 6.4.12. K 2. Explain changes in the post war society of the United States and New Jersey, including the impact of television, the interstate highway system, the growth of suburbs and the democratization of education

THE BEGINNINGS OF OCEAN CITY, NJ: A BRIEF HISTORY

Today, Ocean City, New Jersey is known as America's Greatest Family Resort. This reputation has not occurred by accident, but rather represents the continued legacy of its original founders and mission of 1879. The physical island (called Peck's Beach) existed long before 1879 and was home to Lenape American Indians, whalers and other visitors, it was not truly organized. In the fall of 1879, a group of Methodist leaders decided to purchase and organize Peck's Beach.

On October 20, 1879, a meeting of five Methodist leaders occurred in Philadelphia at 1725 North 7th Street. Not all present were native to Philadelphia. The Lake Family was well represented by the Honorable Simon Lake of Pleasantville, New Jersey, the Reverend Ezra B. Lake of Dennissville, New Jersey and the Reverend Simon W. Lake of Atlanticville, New Jersey. Rounding out the group were two residents of Philadelphia: the Reverend W. H. Burrell and the Reverend William B. Wood, at whose house the meeting transpired. According to the meeting minutes, little was accomplished at the first meeting, other than the nomination of Honorable Simon Lake to President and Reverend S.W. Lake to secretary. They also decided to rename Peck's Beach to New Brighton.

The committee met again the next morning and began to create a more specific plan for the new ocean-side community. These meetings continued throughout the fall and produced several items of importance, notably By-Laws and a process for land acquisition. Within the By-Laws, it is noted that the name was changed from New Brighton to the Ocean City Association. Article Two of the By-Laws also clearly spells out the mission of the community, as it says "The object of this Association shall be the establishment of a Summer Sea-Side Resort, founded upon Christian principles and affording religious privileges, as well as healthful recreation." The remainder of the By-Laws provides a plan of management for the new Association. Several articles explain leadership; others act to enforce the spiritual and moral nature of the Association.

Another primary accomplishment of the meetings was the creation of a plan for land acquisition. Their land plan was undoubtedly connected to their religious motivations. In order to best understand this important connection between religion and land ownership, it is necessary to briefly look at a few other shore communities in the mid-nineteenth century. One important shore town, Long Branch was known for its decadence, wealth and gambling. As opposition, other shore communities such as Ocean Grove and Seaville were created. They predated Ocean City, but were founded under the same motivation for a place for spiritual respite and renewal. These religious communities leased land to people, who had to maintain the moral principles of the community. If they were found in violation, they lost their lease and new tenants would move into the community.

The Ocean City Association took a different approach in hopes that it would lead to stronger adherence to the religious motivations. Instead of leasing land, they sold land. However, in order to purchase land, the buyer had to agree to a few ordinances. The ordinances required rest on the Sabbath and endorsed temperance. People who lived on the island prior to its new owners were allowed to keep their property upon agreement to the new principles. Therefore, property was inextricably tied to the religious motivations of the founders.

This new community of Ocean City, New Jersey appeared to fulfill a need in society. Within the first two years, over thirty-five houses, a hotel, railroad stations,

public baths and the Tabernacle were all created. It would continue to grow amidst an increasingly secular background. Its founders believed that their emphasis on a place for a religious vacation community accounted for their success. Over the next several decades, Ocean City continued to grow and eventually focused more on entertainment, but never lost its original focus. The Sabbath was a required day of rest and worship, alcohol was not permitted and much of the management of the island remained under religious leadership. As it continued to grow in the later twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, it maintains its reputation as a dry, clean community, or as some say “America’s Greatest Family Resort.”

CONTEXT OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Although the creation of a religiously motivated vacation resort may seem odd to some modern audiences, the founding of Ocean City was hardly isolated or out of the ordinary. Three particular movements coincide with the creation of Ocean City:

- ❖ Second Great Awakening
 - In the first half of the nineteenth century, America experienced the Second Great Awakening. During this time, many in the country found a renewed sense of religious enlightenment and Christian morality became a dominant theme in the nation. Certain denominations witnessed substantial growth, for example the Methodists.
- ❖ Victorian Principles
 - In the later nineteenth century, Victorian values gripped America. Some of the values that this time period emphasized were dignity, proper manners and restraint.
- ❖ Development of Leisure
 - Prior to the Civil War, the concept of leisure and recreation was relatively undeveloped in the United States. Of course people had enjoyment and fun in their lives, but mass scale entertainment and specifically organized amusement was rare. In the late nineteenth century, vacation resorts, amusement parks and other activities developed and people began to spend time in play.

As a result of the interplay between these three concepts, religious associations began to create vacation communities called “Camp Meeting Grounds.” These locations would serve two purposes. First, they created controlled places in which their members could relax within their moral code and second, they were property and business investments. These meeting grounds began in Kentucky and Tennessee but soon spread North to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts. A small meeting ground was formed in part of Martha’s Vineyard and two existed in New Jersey prior to Ocean City: Ocean Grove and Pitman. When Ocean City was created, it was not an exact replicate, but brought its own procedures and ideas. Ocean City is a distinct product of cultural forces in the nineteenth century.

However, Ocean City’s history does not end in the nineteenth century. It continued to grow and expand steadily throughout the twentieth century. Although it remained a vacation destination, it also developed its own year-round community. It became incorporated as a city, added a school system and expanded a local economy. It may seem like an isolated island, but Ocean City has always been a reflection of the nation’s cultural values. It continues to be an active, dynamic and changing community in the twenty-first century.

Suggested Bibliography

- Cain, Tim. *Peck's Beach: A Pictorial History of Ocean City, New Jersey*. Harvey Cedars, New Jersey: Down the Shore Publishing, 1988.
- Dorwart, Jeffery M. *Cape May County, New Jersey: The Making of an American Resort Community*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1992.
- Esposito, Frank J. and Robert J. *Images of America: Ocean City, New Jersey*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1996.
- Lee, Harold. *A History of Ocean City, New Jersey*. Ocean City, The Friends of the Ocean City Historical Museum, 1965.
- Luff, William G. *The Story of The Ocean City Tabernacle*. Philadelphia: George H. Buchanan Company, 1995.
- McLaughlin, Mark. *The Postcard History Series: Ocean City, New Jersey*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1999.
- Miller, Fred. *Ocean City America's Greatest Family Resort*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.
- Miler, Fred & Susan. *Ocean City Baby Parade*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.
- Miller, Fred. *Ocean City Beach Patrol*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2004.
- Miller, Fred. *Ocean City 1950 – 1980*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.
- Miller, Susan. *Ocean City An Illustrated History*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., 2007.
- Miller, Susan. *New Jersey's Southern Shore An Illustrated History from Brigantine to Cape May Point*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., 2008.
- Wilson, Harold F. *The Story of the Jersey Shore*. Princeton: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., 1964.

These titles and many more are available at the Ocean City Historical Museum's library.

Visit Suggestions

Elementary-Middle School Age Level

The following are suggestions of topical visits at the Ocean City Historical Museum. Other topics may include *The Sindia*, Early Beach/Boardwalk, Transportation and Pirates. We are happy to work with any topic you may have.

Native American History

Pre-visit:

- Discuss Lenni Lenape tribe, including their geographic location
- Types of Native American house and tools
- Brainstorm ideas of what Native American life was like

Visit:

- Tour museum, with emphasis on Native American artifacts, including arrowheads and other tools
- Discuss Native American way of life in Ocean City and why they relocated
- Look at photographs of the island prior to its organization into Ocean City

Post-Visit:

- Write about the ways life was different from Native Americans to today
- Design arrowheads

(possible craft activity could be a dream catcher)

Whaling

Pre-visit:

- Introduce what the whaling industry was/is
- Go over vocabulary words: harpoon, head spade, lance and scrimshaw, blubber
- Discuss various whale types: right, sperm, blue

Visit:

- Look at pictures of washed-up whales
- Examine actual harpoons and scrimshaws
- Discuss how whaling changed Ocean City from a Native American island to an island of industry
- Investigate how the whaling industry has interacted with nature

Post-Visit:

- Discuss how whaling or where whaling may or may not exist today
- Write about why whales were such a valuable resource (highlighting how blubber was used for a light source, makeup, oil and whale bones in corsets and tools)

(*possible craft activity could be scrimshaw)

Visit Suggestions

Middle School-High School Age Level

The following are suggestions of topical visits at the Ocean City Historical Museum. Other topics may include *The Sindia*, Economy of the Victorian Age, Transportation and Social History of the Twentieth Century. We are happy to work with any topic you may have.

The Founding of Ocean City

Pre-Visit:

- Discuss the Second Great Awakening and its repercussions
- Explore the history of Ocean City, prior to its incorporation as a city
- Understand the economic setting of the late 19th century
- Explain the value of primary documents

Visit:

- Discuss the Lake family and other founders
- Spend time looking at and reading various primary documents from Ocean City's creation: Ledger Book, By-Laws, Deeds.
- Display photographs of founders

Post-Visit:

- Reading copies of the By-Laws, discuss or write about how religion played a central role in Ocean City History
- Generate a list of examples of how the religious influence remains part of the island
- Create your own "vacation" community and generate By-Laws for it

Research Projects

Other than structured visits to the Ocean City Historical Museum, we are able to assist students with their research papers and projects. A staff member or volunteer would be available to visit your classroom and explain the resources offered and how they can be utilized, with students visiting on their own to complete research. If interested, please contact the museum.

In addition to the object artifacts, the museum is home to many 19th and 20th century manuscripts, books on Ocean City's history, maps, newspaper clippings and hundreds of photographs.

BY-LAWS
OCEAN CITY ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I.

NAME

This Corporation shall be known as "The Ocean City Association."

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT

The object of this Association shall be the establishment of a Summer Sea-Side Resort, founded upon Christian principles and affording religious privileges, as well as healthful recreation.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERS

The object of this Association shall be composed of those named in the Charter of Incorporation and their associates and successors- stockholders. All stock redeemed by the Association shall revert to and sink into the general fund for the benefit of the remaining stockholders.

ARTICLE IV.

VOTING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote, in person or by proxy, for each and every share of stock he or she may own. Transfers of stock, to enable a stockholder to vote, must be *bona fide* and made at least 30 days before an election.

ARTICLE V.

MANAGEMENT

The management of this Association shall be vested in a Board of Nine Managers. One-third of the members of the Board shall be Ministers of the Gospel of the Methodist Episcopal Church. One-third may be either Ministers or Laymen of the said Church and the remaining one-third may or may not be Ministers or Laymen of the said Church so that persons of other Churches, or not members of any Church, may be eligible to membership in the Board; but that at all times, two-thirds of the Board shall be composed of either Ministers or Laymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church or both; provided also, That such persons shall be citizens of the United States and shall own, in their own right, one or more shares of stock in this Association.

ARTICLE VI.

OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer; all of whom shall be members of the Board of Managers and shall be elected by them at their Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the stockholders, for the election of the Board of Managers, to hear the annual report of the officers, and transact such other business as may be necessary, shall be held at the office of the Association at Ocean City, N.J., on the first Tuesday of October, in each and every year. The newly-elected Board shall convene immediately on the adjournment of the Annual Meeting and proceed to organize by the election of their officers for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE VIII.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The regular meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held monthly, and on the first Tuesday of each and every month. Special meetings may be held when deemed necessary, by the vote of the Board or call of the President, of which each and every member shall have five days' notice.

ARTICLE IX.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association. He shall sign all orders on the Treasurer for the payment of money, when so ordered by the Board of Managers and not otherwise. He shall appoint all committees and shall have the power to call special meetings of the Board of Managers, when requested to do so, in writing, by three of the Managers and at the annual meeting of the stockholders he shall make a full report of the operations of the year. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform his duties.

Sec. 2. The Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds, bonds and mortgages, other securities and title papers of the Association; pay all orders drawn on him by the Managers, if signed by the President and attested by the Secretary. He shall make a detailed, written report at the annual meetings or oftener, if required by the Board of Managers. He shall give bonds, with security, in the sum of \$10,000.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Association in books provided for the purpose, give due notice of the meetings, countersign the orders on the Treasurer, and perform such other duties as may from time to time be required. He shall receive all moneys due the Association and pay the same to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore.

ARTICLE X.

POWERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers shall have full control of the affairs of the Association, subject only to the control and direction of the stockholders at the annual meeting or special meetings legally called. They shall have power to appoint a Superintendent, who shall have charge of the secular affairs, such as grading, drainage, etc. and such other matters as the Board shall direct. It shall have power to appoint a police justice and a police force sufficient for the preservation of order. It shall also have power to determine the salary or compensation of the officers or employees of the Association and the compensation of members of the Board for services rendered. They shall have full power to make such rules and regulations to guide them in the transaction of their business and discharge of their duties, as they may deem proper, provided they are not in conflict with these By-Laws, or the Charter or Act of Incorporation.

ARTICLE XI.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

The President of the Association who shall be a regularly ordained Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, shall arrange for and have control of, any Camp Meetings, Temperance Conventions, Sunday-School Assemblies or other religious Assemblies held on the Island (except the regularly organized local Churches), and be responsible for the same, under the direction of the Board.

ARTICLE XII.

VACANCIES ON THE BOARD

The Board of Managers shall have power to fill a vacancies occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise; but such election to fill a vacancy shall not extend beyond the annual meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE XIII.

QUORUM.

Six members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of the entire Board be required for the transaction of any business.

ARTICLE XIV.

AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws shall not be amended, altered or revoked, except by a two-thirds vote of the stock of the stock-holders at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose of which at least eight days' notice shall be given.

ARTICLE XV.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At all stated meetings the order of business shall be:

1. Prayer
2. Roll call
3. Reading and approving of the minutes of previous meeting
4. Report of Standing Committee
5. Report of Special Committees
6. Report of Officers
7. Deferred Business
8. New or Miscellaneous Business
9. Adjournment

(taken from Ocean City Association Minutes, Volume 1)

Contact Information

For more information, please contact:

info@ocnjmuseum.org

609-399-1801

Ocean City Historical Museum

Cultural Community Center

1735 Simpson Avenue

Ocean City, NJ 08226

www.ocnjmuseum.org